

General Biology

EFFECTS OF STRESS ON MICE AND THEIR PREFERENCE FOR ALCOHOL

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Previous studies have shown a correlation between stress and alcohol consumption. Use of mind-altering drugs has also been correlated with increased stress levels. In this study, we examined alcohol consumption in mice with respect to stress (timed strobe-light exposure). Twenty-seven mice were randomly assigned to three groups: control (no stress), five minute strobe-light exposure, and fifteen minute strobe-light exposure. Mice were maintained on 11:13 LD and *ad lib.* food, water, and a 6% ethanol solution. Strobe-light exposure occurred daily two hours into the dark phase of the LD cycle. No statistical differences in water consumption or alcohol consumption were observed ($F=0.332$, $DF=2, 24$, $P=0.721$; $F=1.157$, $DF=2, 24$, $P=0.331$ respectively). However, mice exposed to the short duration stressor (five minutes) did show an increase in body weight, as compared to the other groups ($F=3.866$, $DF=2, 24$, $P=0.035$). Based on this study, stress does not appear to influence alcohol consumption.

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